

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 3-18, and 20-22 are pending. Claims 2 and 19 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 11-18 and 20 are withdrawn. Claims 1, 4, and 5 are amended, and claims 21 and 22 are added. Claims 1, 11, and 22 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has made the Restriction Requirement final, and has withdrawn claims 11-20 from further consideration. By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled non-elected claim 19. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to non-elected claims 11-18 and 20 at a later date if so desired.

Claim for Priority

The Examiner has not acknowledged the Applicants' claim for foreign priority based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-208699 filed on July 17, 2002. Clarification is requested in the next official communication.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wright (U.S. 2,782,862) in view of Mendham (U.S. 5,269,057), and claims 5, 6, and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wright (U.S. 2,782,862) in view of Mendham in further view of Camping et al. (U.S. 2,698,666). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1 and 22

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a blade member for an airplane, including

at least one wall thickness of said first outer skin and said second outer skin changes in a cord direction between said at least one reinforcing area and the leading edge, with a portion adjacent to said at least one reinforcing area being thicker than a portion adjacent to the leading edge.

In addition, independent claim 22 is added herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a blade member for an airplane, including

a wall thickness of said second outer skin changes in a cord direction between said at least one reinforcing area and the leading edge, with a portion adjacent to said at least one reinforcing area being thicker than a portion adjacent to the leading edge.

By contrast, as can be seen in Wright FIG. 1, the wall thicknesses of skin 1 and skin 2 do not change in the cord direction. Further, Mendham FIGS. 1-9 provide no suggestion that the thickness of the outer skins of foil 10 change in the cord direction.

At least for the reasons above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 22 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Wright and Mendham, at least for the reasons explained above.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 22 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 4 and 5 are amended to reflect the changes made to claim 1, and dependent claims 21 is added to set forth additional novel features of the invention.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

Applicant(s) respectfully petitions under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and 1.17 for a one-month extension of time in which to respond to the Examiner's Office Action. The Extension of Time Fee in the amount of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

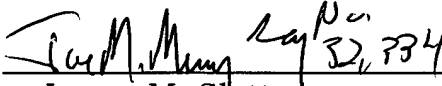
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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